

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 EB-11 SCEM-02 COME-00

INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 111559Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 129

INFO AMEMBASSY BENR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS VIENNA 8414

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AU

SUBJ: AUSTRIAN MEASURES TO CURTAIL FUEL CONSUMPTION

1. AS PRECAUTION IN WAKE OF NEAR EAST HOSTILITIES GOA YESTERDAY
APPEALED TO POPULATION TO LIMIT CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND FUELS TO
ESSENTIALS AND ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING SPECIFIC MEASURES:

A. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY GAS STATIONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM
SELLING GAS IN CONTAINERS OR CANS. THIS IS TO DISCOURAGE HOARDING.

B. ALSO EFFECTIVE AT ONCE, OUTPUT OF AUSTRIA'S ONLY MAJOR
REFINERY (SCHWECHAT) IS REDUCED TO 60 PERCENT OF NORMAL OUTPUT.

C. GOA HAS APPOINTED COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO MONITOR OIL
SITUATION.

STARIBACHER ALSO INDICATED GOA MIGHT ASK FOR ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION
TO PROVIDE LEGAL BASIS FOR RATIONING OIL PRODUCTS IF THIS SHOULD
PROVE NECESSARY.

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2. IN ANNOUNCING THESE MEASURES TRADE MINISTER STARIBACHER SAID

AUSTRIA HAS SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES ON HAND "FOR SEVERAL WEEKS" BUT THAT CRUCIAL FACTOR WILL OBVIOUSLY BE HOW LONG WAR IN ME LASTS.

3. AUSTRIA WAS SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE FROM IRAQ 400,000 TONS CRUDE OIL IN REMAINDER THIS CALENDAR YEAR. GOA IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THIS FLOW MAY BE INTERRUPTED. AUSTRIA RELIES ON DOMESTIC PRODUCTION FOR ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF ITS FUEL REQUIREMENTS, OBTAINS RELATIVELY SMALL QUANTITY OF CRUDE FROM USSR, AND RELIES ON NE (MAINLY PERSIAN GULF STATES AND IRAQ) FOR BALANCE. STARIBACHER INDICATED THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT AUSTRIA COULD OBTAIN ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES OF REFINED OIL PRODUCTS IF NEEDED FROM ITALY AND HINTED DISCUSSIONS WITH ITALIANS MAY BE UNDER WAY NOW.

4. ESSO REP ADVISED EMBASSY YESTERDAY THAT EFFECTIVE OCT 15 PRICE OF GAS IT SUPPLIES TO EMBASSY WILL INCREASE 15 PERCENT AND FUEL OIL 20 PERCENT. MOBIL OIL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY COST OF FUEL OIL TO EMBASSY IS INCREASED 20 PERCENT. MOWINCKEL

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